

ABSTRACT
MULTICASTING

A packet network and method of operating the same is described. The network is
5 arranged into a hierarchy, having one organisation-level portion (CS, P, R2) and
three site-level portions (S1, S2, S3). By using forwarding computers and
assigning multicast addresses in respect of each portion, the total number of
multicast addresses required to send multicast messages to all possible subsets of
potential recipients is reduced. This alleviates routers in the network of the burden
10 associated with storing and processing a large amount of multicast addresses.

Figure (1)

25570con.doc